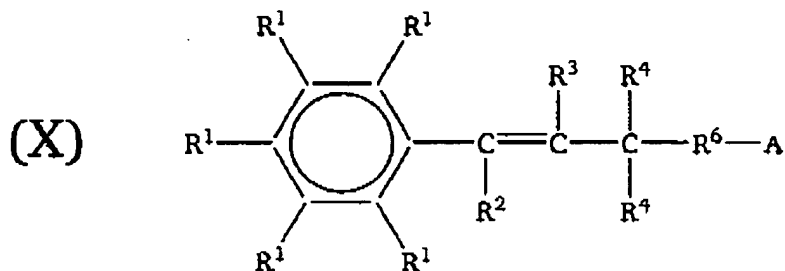


Claims:

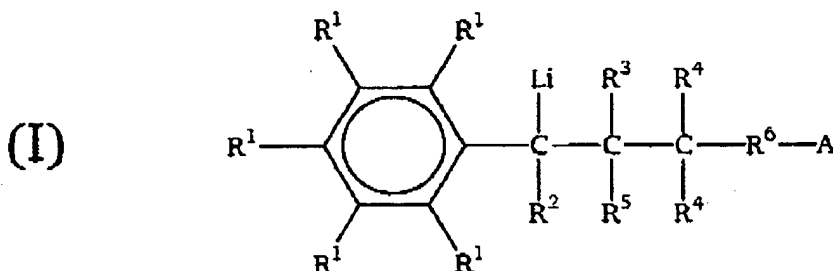
1. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a functionalized anionic polymerization initiator, the process comprising:

combining a functionalized styryl compound and an organolithium compound, where the functionalized styryl compound is defined by the formula X



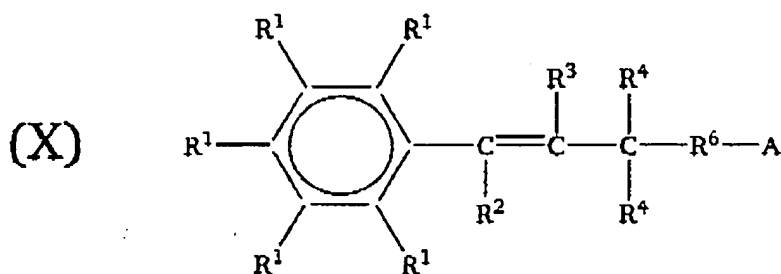
where each R¹ is independently hydrogen or a hydrocarbyl group, R² is hydrogen or a hydrocarbyl group, R³ is hydrogen or a hydrocarbyl group, each R⁴ is independently hydrogen or a monovalent organic group, R⁵ is a covalent bond or a hydrocarbylene group, and A is a functional group.

2. (Currently Amended) An anionic polymerization initiator defined according to the formula I:



where each R^1 is independently hydrogen or a hydrocarbyl group, R^2 is hydrogen or a hydrocarbyl group, R^3 is hydrogen or a hydrocarbyl group, each R^4 is independently hydrogen or a monovalent organic group, R^5 is a hydrogen atom or a hydrocarbyl group, where at least one of R^3 or R^5 is hydrocarbyl, R^6 is a covalent bond or a hydrocarbylene group, and A is a functional group.

3. (Currently Amended) A polymer prepared by a process of comprising the steps of:
 polymerizing monomer with an initiator that is prepared by combining a functionalized styryl compound and an organolithium compound, where the functionalized styryl compound is defined by the formula X



where each R^1 is independently hydrogen or a hydrocarbyl group, R^2 is hydrogen or a hydrocarbyl group, R^3 is hydrogen or a hydrocarbyl group, each R^4 is independently hydrogen or a monovalent organic group, R^6 is a covalent bond or a hydrocarbylene group, and A is a functional group.

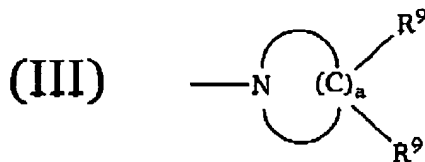
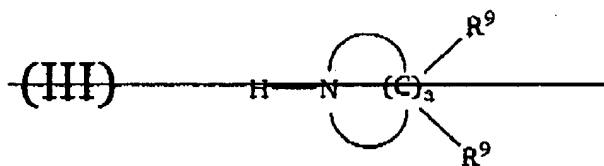
4. (cancelled)
5. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 1, where the functionalized styryl compound is N-(cinnamyl): -pyrrolidine, -3-methylpyrrolidine, -3,4-dimethylpyrrolidine, -3,3-dimethylpyrrolidine, -piperidine, -4-methylpiperidine, -3-methylpiperidine, -morpholine, -4-methylpiperazine, -4-ethyl-piperazine, -4-propylpiperazine,

-hexamethyleneimine (~~or —perhydroazepine~~), -trimethylperhydroazepine,
 -azacyclotridecane, -azacyclohexadecane, -azacycloheptadecene,
 -trimethylazabicyclooctane, [[or]] -perhydroisoquinoline, or -perhydroindole.

6. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 1, where said step of combining combines about 0.8 mmol of the ~~cyclic-amine~~ functionalized styryl compound with about 1.0 mmol of the organolithium compound.

7. (Previously presented) The process of claim 1, where step of combining occurs in the presence of about 1 to about 20 mmol of monomer in order to chain extend the initiator.

8. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 1, where the ~~cyclic-amine compound~~ functional group A is defined by the formula III



where each R^9 is independently hydrogen or a monovalent organic group and a is an integer from 4 to about 18.

9. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1, where the functionalized styryl compound is prepared by combining a reactive styryl compound and a functionalized nucleophile.

10. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 1, where the functionalized styryl compound is prepared by combining a reactive styryl compound and a functionalized ~~electrophile~~ electrophile.

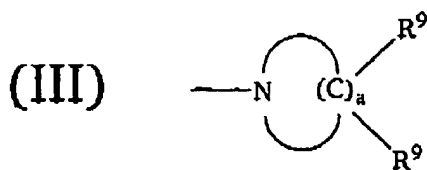
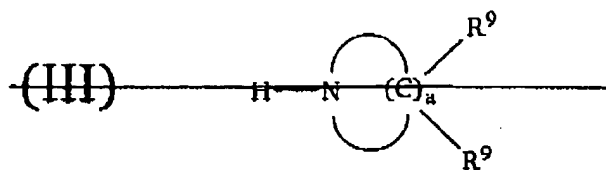
11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) The polymer of claim 3, where the functionalized styryl compound is N-(cinnamyl): -pyrrolidine, -3-methylpyrrolidine, -3,4-dimethylpyrrolidene, -3,3-dimethylpyrrolidine, -piperidine, -4-methylpiperidine, -3-methylpiperidine, -morpholine, -4-methylpiperazine, -4-ethyl-piperazine, -4-propylpiperazine, -hexamethyleneimine ~~for~~ -perhydroazepine, -trimethylperhydroazepine, -azacycloridecane, -azacyclohexadecane, -azacycloheptadecene, -trimethylazabicyclooctane, [[or]] -perhydroisoquinoline, or -perhydroindole.

13. (Currently Amended) The polymer of claim 3, where said step of combining combines about 0.8 mmol of the ~~cyclic-amine~~ functionalized styryl compound with about 1.0 mmol of the organolithium compound.

14. (Previously Presented) The polymer of claim 3, where step of combining occurs in the presence of about 1 to about 20 mmol of monomer in order to chain extend the initiator.

15. (Currently Amended) The polymer of claim 3, where the ~~cyclic-amine compound~~ functional group A is defined by the formula III



where each R^9 is independently hydrogen or a monovalent organic group and a is an integer from 4 to about 18.

16. (Previously Presented) The polymer of claim 3, where the functionalized styryl compound is prepared by combining a reactive styryl compound and a functionalized nucleophile.

17. (Currently Amended) The polymer of claim 3, where the functionalized styryl compound is prepared by combining a reactive styryl compound and a functionalized electrophile electrophile.

18. (New) A process for preparing a functionalized anionic polymerization initiator, the process comprising:

combining a functionalized styryl compound and an organolithium compound, where the functionalized styryl compounds includes a functional group selected from the group consisting of an amine group, a phosphine group, an ether group, a thio ether group, a seleno group, a silyl group, an alkyl tin group, and a short-chain thermoplastic polymer segment.

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19. (New) The process of claim 19, where the functional group is selected from the group consisting of an amine group, a phosphine group, an ether group, a thio ether group, a seleno group, a silyl group, and an alkyl tin group.

20. (New) The process of claim 19, where the functional group is selected from the group consisting of an amine group, a phosphine group, a silyl group, and an alkyl tin group.

21. (New) A process for preparing a functionalized anionic polymerization initiator, the process comprising:

combining a functionalized styryl compound and an organolithium compound, where the functionalized styryl compound is N-(cinnamyl): -pyrrolidine, -3-methylpyrrolidine, -3,4-dimethylpyrrolidene, -3,3-dimethylpyrrolidine, -piperidine, -4-methylpiperidine, -3-methylpiperidine, -morpholine, -4-methylpiperazine, -4-ethyl-piperazine, -4-propylpiperazine, -hexamethyleneimine, -trimethylperhydroazepine, -azacycloridecane, -azacyclohexadecane, -azacycloheptadecene, -trimethylazabicyclooctane, -perhydroisoquinoline, or -perhydroindole.